

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 191915
ORIGIN EA-06

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APPROVED BY EA:ROAKLEY
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D/HA:FSIEVERTS

-----009505 130036Z /63

O R 130022Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL UDORN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 191915

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP, LA, TH, VM

SUBJECT: STAFFDEL DEHAAN/TINKER

REF: VIENTIANE 1165

1. STAFFDEL ADVISE THAT THEY WILL SPEND AFTERNOON OF
AUGUST 19 AND PART OF MORNING AUGUST 20 IN VIENTIANE,
FLYING TO HANOI AROUND NOON AUGUST 20. THEY PLAN TO OBTAIN
SRV VISAS IN VIENTIANE AND ARE IN TOUCH WITH VIETNAMESE ON
THIS. EMBASSY NEED NOT TAKE ANY ACTION THIS REGARD.
STAFFDEL RETURNS TO VIENTIANE AUGUST 27 FOR APPROXIMATELY
ONE DAY.

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2. TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS PER PARA 1 REFTL ARE FINE.
STAFFDEL PLAN TO TOUR THAI REFUGEE CAMPS AND HAVE BANGKOK
CONTACTS AFTER REPEAT AFTER VIENTIANE AND SRV VISITS, AND
WILL DISCUSS PROGRAM WITH EMBASSY BANGKOK ON INITIAL
ARRIVAL BANGKOK AUGUST 17.

3. STAFFDEL HAVE STATED PURPOSE OF THEIR VISIT TO LAOS AS "FACTFINDING WITH REGARD TO HUMANITARIAN NEEDS OF LAO PEOPLE." THEY PLAN TO MEET WITH LAO FOREIGN MINISTER AND APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND HAVE TOLD LAO EMBASS; HERE OF THEIR DESIRES. THEY ARE OPEN TO OTHER SUGGESTIONS EMBASSY MAY HAVE AND, IN ANY EVENT, REQUEST THAT EMBASSY VIENTIANE FOLLOW UP WITH LAO MFA ON THEIR REQUESTS FOR APPOINTMENTS. WE HAVE GENTLY POINTED OUT TO STAFFDEL THE PROBLEM OF DISCUSSING "NEEDS OF PEOPLE" WITH LAO GOVERNMENT IN ABSENCE OF U.S. AID PROGRAM, INCLUDING MISLEADING SIGNALS. BELIEVE STAFFDEL WOULD BENEFIT FROM FURTHER BRIEFING THIS REGARD ON ARRIVAL.

4. STAFFDEL ALSO PLAN TO TALK WITH UN AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES AND WILL BE MAKING WISHES KNOWN THROUGH UN CHANNELS. HOWEVER, SUGGEST THAT EMBASSY COORDINATE CLOSELY WITH UNHCR ON SCHEDULE.

5. STAFFDEL WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR WHATEVER SOCIAL FUNCTIONS EMBASSY DEEMS USEFUL AND APPROPRIATE, SUCH AS WORKING LUNCH OR DINNER AUGUST 19. STAFFDEL DO NOT EXPECT LAO TO ORGANIZE ANY TRAVEL OUTSIDE VIENTIANE. CHRISTOPHER

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